

# THE COLUMBAN

DEC 2008

ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • ISSUE 23



## THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP SCOTTISH SCHOOL

Music Faculty Week



Debater to Compete at World Champs



Band Bids Farewell to QE2



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## Rector's Message

I was delighted with the news that we are The Sunday Times Top Scottish School 2008. The Sunday Times league table is based on the percentage of As and Bs at Higher and the percentage of top grades in SIV exams and this is the first time that St Columba's has achieved first place on this reckoning, although, as you know, we have often been runner-up. Pupils and staff are pleased with this recognition of their hard work and examination success.

Members of the School community will wish to join me in congratulating Mrs Cook on her appointment as an HMle Associate Assessor. Associate Assessors are serving senior teachers who join Her Majesty's Inspectors on school inspections, usually three per year, where they act as full members of inspection teams. In the coming months Mrs Cook will receive intensive training; the results of which will benefit St Columba's. Mrs Cook's appointment is a major achievement for her personally and reflects very positively upon the School.

There were a number of School excursions over the October mid term break. I took 60 SI pupils to visit the world renowned sites of Paris. The staff and I were impressed by the group and, in particular, by their willingness to participate and their friendliness. Dr Gilmour led a group of 28 pupils to the First World War Battlefields. This remains one of our most popular trips and one which makes a considerable impact on pupils. Four members of the group participated in the School's Remembrance Service held on 10th November, giving their reflections of aspects of their Battlefields visit.

Mrs Urie led a senior Hockey Tour to Barcelona which proved enormously successful. The girls enjoyed beautiful weather, a wonderful hotel and excellent sports facilities. The standard of hockey was extremely high and the girls returned with 1 win, 2 draws and 1 defeat. Mr Manson led the 1st XV on a tour of the South of France, where the boys played 3 matches. The fourth match was cancelled on account of a flooded pitch, something which we thought only happened in Kilmacoll! The trip was enormously successful and enjoyed by all, particularly given that they returned undefeated. Mrs Stevens took three of our debaters to Canada for the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition. Hannah Reilly and Rebecca Meredith were delighted to win the Cross Examination Debating category. Reports on all of these events can be found within this edition of The Columban.

On 15th November I travelled to London with the Heads of School, Christopher Johnstone and Kirsty Wilson, to attend a Former Pupils' Lunch at the Palace of Westminster. The event was hosted by one of our most famous former pupils, Eleanor Laing MP. This was a wonderful occasion with a reception for guests on the terrace overlooking the Thames before lunch in a plush dining room. The former pupils (all old girls) were delighted to hear of the successes of the School.

At the start of November we held our open week for prospective pupils and parents. They were shown round by our Transitus or by our SVI pupils before having individual appointments with either Mrs Cook or myself. Mrs Cook and I always receive positive feedback from visitors who are thoroughly impressed by our pupils: they are polite, mannerly, smiling and genuinely happy and positive about their School.

I announced last session that the School now offers financial support in the form of bursary places ranging from 10% to 100% of fees for new pupils entering at Transitus or into Senior School. Bursaries are means tested and applicants are subject to our normal admissions policy. Once again, this session I have advertised bursaries in local newspapers but the best way to spread such news is through word of mouth and I would be grateful for your support in this regard. Further details and information concerning bursaries is on the School's website in the Admissions section.

## Parents' Association Dinner Dance

The Parents' Association is holding a dinner dance at the Radisson Hotel Glasgow on 21st March 2009.

Tickets costing £75 each include:

- prize raffle
- transport to and from the event (transport spaces may be limited so book early!)
- 3-course dinner
- live band entertainment with the Soul Kings
- music throughout the evening

The Association is sure that you will have a wonderful time and promise not to interrupt the evening with any speeches or auctions!

Please contact Joanna Robins on 07960 824285 or at stcolms@aol.com to book a table.



During December the School will host many musical events ranging from the SVI Yearbook Concert to Christmas Dances, Infants' Christmas Celebrations and Pipe Band Concerts. A great deal of preparation is going into these events and I thank all those who have given so freely of their time in this regard.

The final events of the year are the Junior School and Senior School Carol Services which will be held on Thursday 18th December. The Junior School Service will take place in the afternoon commencing at 2.30pm with the Senior School Service commencing at 7pm, both in the St Columba Church. Members of the wider School community are invited to attend these services; refreshments will be served in the Senior School Hall following the Senior School Carol Service. I do hope that you can join us.

I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 5th January at normal starting times.



Megan



Rebecca and Hannah

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Debating

#### Scottish Debating Team

Megan Girdwood SV has been selected to compete for Scotland in the World Schools' Debating Championship. This is the first time in the School's history that one of our pupils has been chosen for the Scottish Schools' Debating Team.

We wish Megan well in Swansea in the 4 Nations in January and in February in Athens, where the 2009 World Championships are being held.

#### St Columba's Invitational Tournament – West Coast Worlds

The School held its own invitational tournament in September – The West Coast World – for the second year. This tournament has now become a fixture on the Scottish Schools' Debating Calendar with top teams from both the independent and state sector across the country participating. It is the only schools competition in Scotland run in the World Schools' style. The competition was judged by experts in this style including a number of former Scottish team members as well as two former World School's coaches.

It was, therefore, particularly pleasing this year that the team from St Columba's won. Against the High School of Dundee, the judges were unanimous in their decision that St Columba's were the best team in the final. Congratulations to Hannah Reilly, Rebecca Meredith and Megan Girdwood, all SV pupils. Megan was also judged Best Speaker of the Day.

#### International Debating Victory

SV pupils Hannah Reilly, Rebecca Meredith and Tessa Robins travelled to Canada in October to compete in the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition.

Rebecca and Hannah were delighted to win the Cross Examination Debating category against Ontario School, The Toronto French School. This is a peculiarly North American style of debating which the girls cannot participate in in the UK and which the other teams experience regularly in debates across Canada and the USA. No British team has ever reached the final in this category and it has never before been won by an all-girls team. It was therefore a good win for the girls.

Hannah also qualified for the Parliamentary Debating category final and Tessa put in two extremely good performances in both the News and Interpretive Reading categories and was extremely unlucky not to qualify for these finals.



Tessa

#### Northern Juniors

There was success for two of our young debaters in the Northern Juniors competition. Maxine Muirhead and Megan Reilly in SII won the U-14 category at the ages of 11 and 13 so the future of debating at St Columba's is in good hands.

Aberdeen University Schools' Competition Saturday 22nd November  
Four of our teams participated and Megan Girdwood and Rebecca Meredith reached the final, where unfortunately they were defeated.

## Staff Changes

Mr Steel, Teacher of PE, left in October to concentrate on his hotel and restaurant business.  
Mr Forster, former part-time Teacher of PE, now joins us full-time.  
Mr Grant Howieson joins us as part-time Teacher of PE.  
Mr McLean, Teacher of Chemistry, left in November to move to America.  
Ms Laura Robertson, Teacher of Chemistry, joined us in October to replace Mr McLean.  
Mrs Redmond has moved from the Senior School Office to a position in the Finance Department.  
Mrs Mabe, former part-time Senior School Receptionist, replaces Mrs Redmond.  
Mrs McWhirter joins us as part-time Receptionist in Senior School.  
Mrs McKay, Head of Marketing and Development, will begin her maternity leave in January 2009.  
Mrs Zhang will join us in January to cover Mrs McKay's maternity leave.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### SVI Yearbook Concert

As has become a tradition in recent years SVI put on a show in Senior School to raise funds for their yearbook. This show involves all of SVI and the audiences on both the 2nd and 3rd of December thoroughly enjoyed an evening of music, song and dance as well as some delightful sketches.

Mr McGregor spent every Friday rehearsing this show and the dramatisation of the music as well as the stagecraft certainly benefited from his skills. The finale involving the whole year on a spectacular musical journey from the 1950s to the 1990s brought back lots of memories for the parents and grandparents in the audience.

SVI were also delighted to donate a share of the proceeds to St Ignatius School in Guyana, our nominated charity this session.

In honour and memory of former pupil Pamela McCarroll, this year's whole school charitable fundraising is for Project Trust, specifically St Ignatius Secondary School in Letham, Guyana, to kit out classrooms with computers and equipment.

### Inter-House Quiz Champions

The annual Charity Inter-House Quiz took place in September. More than £200 was raised for St Ignatius School. The quiz was closely contested between Strathgryffe and Craigmarnock before Strathgryffe defended their title successfully.

The winning team was Laura Watson (SII), Jamie MacDonald (SIV) and Scott Dickson (SVI).

Thanks to William Hesselmann who organised and presented the quiz with help from the scorer, John Miller.



Scott, Laura and Jamie

### Busking for Music Therapy

During Music Faculty Week Senior School pupils 'busked' in the foyer before school, at short break and performed a daily recital in the dining hall during lunchtime.

They raised £150 for The Music Therapy Charity which helps patients to cope more effectively with their lives and difficulties.



### Dress Down Day

The School's Dress Down Day in October raised over £800 towards equipment for St Ignatius Secondary School.

### MacMillan Support

Seven Senior V pupils kindly helped out at the MacMillan Cancer Support Art Show held at Inchinnan in November.

### Charity Tea Towels

For this year's whole school charity, Junior School children drew self portraits to put on year group tea towels. These are for sale at Junior School priced £3.50.

### Charity Recipe Book

Mrs Gillies travelled to Romania last year to visit a number of projects with the Blythswood Charity. On her return she gave a powerpoint presentation to Junior School and asked the children to look out their favourite recipes which have since been collated into a Family Favourites recipe book.

The book will be for sale at both Junior and Senior School and proceeds will go to support a centre for underprivileged children which offers hot meals, showers and help with school work.

Look at the bare walls, the children have virtually no materials. The blue sweatshirts have been donated.

The children received bags containing gifts, clothes and soap. The jumpers have all been knitted in Scotland.



### Poppy Appeal

This year School collected £400 for Poppy Scotland.

### Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following pupils who were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh's Award at an Assembly on 27th October.

#### Bronze Awards

Sam Conn, Fraser Davidson, David Johnstone, Graeme Mann, Blair Nicol, P J Rankin, Jonathan Robb, Andrew Scott.

#### Silver Awards

Andrew Beverstock, Gordon Duthie, Flora La Thangue, Beverley Macpherson, Kris Mathie, Stephanie McCabe, Claire McGregor, Kyle Nish, Laura Pirrie, Katie Stirrup.

### School Website

The new school website is currently being developed and will be live early in the new year.

The website will be built with bolt-on functionality to allow the site to evolve over time.

In line with feedback from the Parents' Association, the first phase of the site involves a new design, simplified navigation, easier to use menu bars with less hover-sensitive sub menus and key information accessibly located.

### Diary Dates

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 17 Dec       | Pipe Band play in Village, 16.00   |
| 18 Dec       | Junior School Carol Service, St Columba Church, 14.30  |
|              | Senior School Carol Service, St Columba Church, 19.00  |
|              | School closes for Christmas Holiday  |
| 19 Dec       | Senior School Ball, 19.30-midnight   |
| 5 Jan        | School re-opens  |
| 8-9 Jan      | J1 Interviews - 2009-2010  |
| 10 Jan       | Entrance Tests - 2009-2010   |
| 12 Jan       | J1 Interviews - 2009-2010  |
| 15/16/19 Jan | Prep Tests - 2009-2010   |
| 9 Feb        | Junior Swimming Gala, Johnstone Baths, 13.00   |
| 13 Feb       | School closes for mid-term break   |
| 23-24 Feb    | In-Service for staff   |
| 25 Feb       | School re-opens for pupils   |
| 12 Mar       | Former Pupils' AGM, Senior School, 19.30   |
| 21 Mar       | Parents' Association Dinner Dance, Radisson Hotel, Glasgow   |
| 28 Mar       | School v Former Pupils Hockey/Rugby Matches - Hockey, 9.30, Astro turf Rugby, 10.45, Birkmyre Park |



# AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS

## Music Faculty Week

This year for the first time we have introduced Faculty Weeks. The first Faculty to be given the opportunity to highlight its strengths was the Music Faculty, which spent the week beginning 22nd September promoting music throughout the School.

The performances during the week from pupils from SI - SVI and from music tutors raised money for The Music Therapy Charity, as well as entertaining the whole school at breaks and lunchtimes. The week was so successful that the School Council has asked for music at lunchtime to be provided on a regular basis.

### MONDAY

To start the week, Rebecca Anderson and Clare Eagle performed piano duets and solos in the foyer from 8.15am. Mercedes McKay Turner and Jennifer Hoad performed 'The Flower Duet' by Delibes at morning assembly. Lewis Millar then took over the busking slot in the foyer at short break playing a selection of piano pieces whilst passing round 'the hat'.

After break on Monday morning, Wilma MacDougall, a professional singer, gave a vocal master class. This involved pupils from all year groups and was designed primarily to help vocal students and SQA candidates understand more about the physical demands of singing and the interpretation of songs. Four pupils, Tessa Robins, Caitlin Girdwood, Gillian MacDonald and Emma Leighton, accompanied by Mrs Kidd, performed for Wilma throughout the morning. This was followed by a short concert in which Wilma performed songs from the shows and other classical favourites.

At lunchtime the Senior Band led by Ms Carey performed in the dining hall to rapturous applause from staff and pupils alike. Their repertoire included 'Deep River' and the 'Theme from Flash Dance'.

In the afternoon Transitus pupils were treated to a woodwind workshop led by Miss Punter's woodwind quartet. Pupils heard demonstrations of many woodwind instruments from piccolo and flute to cor anglais and this was followed by a short concert which included music from 'Pirates of the Caribbean', 'James Bond' and other well known excerpts from film and television shows. The workshop culminated in a delightful but noisy workshop where pupils composed their own music.

### TUESDAY

Mr Simons, our guitar teacher, entertained the staff during short break with a recital of folk and blues music. This was very enjoyable and the total money raised for the charity doubled thanks to the generosity of the staff.

Scott Dickson treated diners to a touch of class during long break, performing a piano recital including a selection of music by Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Debussy. This proved to be very popular with SVI.



### WEDNESDAY

Iain Boyd led the buskers with jazz pieces on saxophone before School and was ably matched by Gregor Keir's performance on clarinet at short break.

For SIII the drama really began when Mr McGregor ran music and drama workshops throughout the day.

Not to be outdone by her peers, Emily Jayne Russell, accompanied by Mrs Mitchell, gave a trumpet recital during lunch.

### THURSDAY

Fraser McArthur piped the whole school to Assembly and who can forget the Junior Band's rendition of 'Spider Pig'!

Mr Simon's guitar pupils were the highlight during lunchtime when they performed rock and blues music.

This was probably the noisiest afternoon in the whole week when Mr Deveney's Samba Band of SI pupils rocked Kilmacolm! Pupils were involved in a series of workshops learning about Latin American percussion instruments and at the end of the workshops all had the opportunity to perform their own Samba music.



### FRIDAY

Unfortunately due to illness, The Bridge Boys (aka Fraser McArthur, Matthew Murray, Ross Donachie and Graham Robertson) were unable to perform their a cappella routine but, in order to save the day, Iain Boyd treated us to a very impressive collection of contemporary pop songs accompanying himself on guitar!

Mr McGregor ran several Sound Engineering Workshops throughout the day for SII. This allowed them to look at the more contemporary side of music, recording and sound production and they had great fun recording their own CDs.

Fraser Quinn entertained us on the clarinet at short break before the final performance of the week from Melissa Meighan, Caitlin Findlay and Caitlin Fox-Gardner who sang for us at lunchtime.

It was a fantastic week. The School enjoyed each and every performance and this was the best introduction possible to our series of Faculty Weeks this session.





# AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS

## Music

### Forthcoming Activities

#### Carol Service

All ensembles and choirs are rehearsing and preparing repertoire for the Carol Service which takes place on Thursday 18th December in St Columba Church. This is the final event in what has been a very busy term for the Music Department.

#### Band Bids Farewell to QE2

The Pipe Band had the honour of playing at Clydeport when the QE2 made her final visit to the Clyde Coast on Sunday 5th October.

Originally built at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, the QE2 had her maiden voyage in 1969 and is one of the last great transatlantic liners, having made the crossing more than 800 times. She arrived at the Greenock Terminal at midday and left at 10pm to continue her farewell visits to British ports, before departing for Dubai in November.

The Band 'marched on' at 2.30pm and performed for forty-five minutes with a musical programme of marches, medleys, solos and salutes.

Pipe Major, Iain Findlay, currently in SVI, said, "Over the years the Band has played at some very special occasions and this is certainly one that will be remembered for a long time. We had a fantastic day and hope that we marked such a momentous occasion with the stirring sound of pipe music."



Having performed at Clydeport three times previously this year, the arrival of the QE2 was a special day which will serve the Band well in its preparations to participate in New York's Pipefest Parade in April 2009.

To raise funds for this trip the Band arranged an evening of music and dance on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December in the Junior School Hall.

The night was an exciting mix of old and new with some fabulous guests including The Tara Dancers, King Arthur's Men and a Highland Dancer in addition to the School Pipe Band. There was also a spectacular prelude to the concert including games and Christmas stalls. A full report on the musical evening will be included in the next Columban.

#### Glenfiddich Piping Champion

The School community's congratulations go to Mr Gordon Walker, our Piping Instructor, who has won the coveted World Championship of Solo Piping, the Glenfiddich Trophy, for the second year in a row. The event, held at Blair Castle, is considered the Olympics of the piping world with only the gold medal winners of the various UK solo piping competitions invited to take part each year.

Mr Walker competed against pipers from around the globe, including New Zealand and Canada, as well as some of his fellow countrymen in both the Piobaireachd and the March, Strathspey & Reel traditions before lifting the coveted overall winner's trophy.

#### The Junior Choir

The Junior Choir continues to go from strength to strength following their appearance at the Scottish heats of BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year. They performed in Princes Square on Monday 15th December as part of the Festival of Choirs to raise money for Quarriers.

The repertoire included winning songs from previous competitions, some new pieces and a mixture of old and new festive favourites. This was the first time that St Columba's has been asked to perform and choir members were very excited about taking part.

## Art and Design

### Scottish Parliament Exhibition

Jonathan Cawte (SVI) was delighted to be asked to participate in the SQA Art Exhibition which opened on 4th November at the Scottish Parliament. It marks the start of a series of exhibitions being held at iconic venues across the country over the next six months.

The exhibition showcases 180 spectacular and inspirational exhibits in painting, sculpture, design, ceramics, fashion and jewellery from the 2008 Higher Art and Design examinations. Jonathan was recognised for the game which he designed for the Sensory Garden at Countryview, Quarriers.



### School Christmas Card

For the last few years we have asked Junior or Senior pupils to design the School Christmas card.

This year's winner is Laura Pirrie in SV with 'The Church of St Columba, Kilmacolm'.



### Brownlee Award Winners

This art competition is in memory of Provost George Brownlee, who established the annual Civic Art Exhibition in Port Glasgow.

A number of our pupils entered this year and were delighted to receive the following awards:

#### 11-13 Years

1st Clare Eagle SIII  
2nd Gregor Keir SI  
Commended Niamh Allen SII

#### 14-16 Years

1st Robyn Grant SV  
Highly Commended Emilie Anderson SIV  
2nd Hannah Lyth SV  
Commended Laurie Pirrie SV





# AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS

## English

Theatre trips and live performances have been to the fore this term. SIII saw the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of 'Romeo and Juliet' at the King's Theatre. This improved their understanding of the play and their appreciation of the playwright's skill.

SV pupils thoroughly enjoyed His Majesty's Theatre's production of 'Sunset Song' at the King's Theatre, which brought the novel to life. A number of SV also attended a production of 'Wuthering Heights' by the Dumbarton Peoples' Theatre Group. The performance was held together by the star of the show, the housekeeper Mrs Dean, played by our own Mrs Nicoll, Head of Biology.

Pupils around Britain have the opportunity to attend Poetry Live! conferences and our SV and SVI English pupils joined over 500 others at the City Hall, Glasgow on 17th November. Six poets, John Agard, Liz Lochhead, Robert Crawford, Tom Leonard, Carol Ann Duffy and Imtiaz Dharker, recited a few of their poems and then answered questions. This brought to life the words on the page and the pupils found it very interesting to hear the different readings. Four SVI girls were even paid to hand out programmes!



### Scots Poetry Award

Saskia Cooper (Transitus) won first prize in the children's section of the Herald's McCash Poetry Competition and received her prize of £100 at a prizegiving ceremony at Glasgow University in November. The competition was open to children aged up to 17 years so, as a twelve year old, she did exceptionally well.

The judges included Liz Lochhead, Professor Alan Riach, Head of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University, Lesley Duncan, the Herald's poetry critic, and senior judge Edwin Morgan, Macher for Scotland. Her inspiration for Scots comes from reading 'The Broons' and the theme of the poem is 'Karma with a comic twist'.

Tae a Hauf Eaten Wurm and Bee  
Whit e'er made ye loup ontae ma newly shampooed hair?  
Wur ye seekin' refuge there?  
Or cud it be that nasty corbie  
Ontae ma golden locks did throe ye?  
  
Weel whit'll karma hae in store fur ye  
Mister Crow in days tae come?  
  
I pit oot them braw cake crumbs fur ye  
Noo ye've made an awfu' glum.  
Hoo about the feelings o' the hauf eaten bee and wurm?  
I'll tell ye this oneyway  
Ye'll no be getting' ma piece next Setturday.

### Faculty Week

Faculty Week for English took place during the first week in December and included writer visits from Alex Gray, Christopher Brookmyre and Liz Lochhead. We will report on the event in the next Columban.

## Languages

Paris – C'est Magnifique!  
Gregor Keir, SI

In the first week of the October break SI went to Paris. It was magnifique!

Our first sight of Paris was by night. It was spectacular. The Eiffel Tower was lit up like a Christmas tree. Our hotel was very comfortable, with a good choice of breakfast food, especially the peach flavoured muffins.

When we went to Versailles, most of the teachers tried hard to teach us a little culture, except for Mr Robertson who started a competition to see who could eat the extra large ice creams the fastest, a competition which he won hands down.

We visited L'Aquaboulevard, the largest water park in Europe where Mr Smith made a bit of a splash!

On our visit to Montmartre we passed through Paris's artistic quarter and savoured the atmosphere. The church of Sacré-Coeur was very beautiful. Thursday was the day everyone was waiting for, Disneyland and its famous attraction, Space Mountain2! There we were shot out of a cannon at lightning speed so that it felt like our faces were being torn apart.

Too soon it was time to say 'au revoir' to Paris. A big thank you to all the teachers and Dr Campbell for making it a great trip.



## Mathematics

### Enterprising Maths Competition

On Monday 6th October Stuart Bell and Heather Brandon from SIV and Stuart MacQueen and Charlotte Mitchell from SIII represented St Columba's in the annual Enterprising Maths Competition at George Watson's College in Edinburgh.

The team took part in three rounds of competition against 27 other schools. Although the team did not win they had a very enjoyable and fun day.



# AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS

## Humanities Geography

**Fieldwork Across the Water**  
Advanced Higher Geographers enjoyed a successful weekend of fieldwork at a new venue in Ireland from the 1st-3rd November.

The party met for the early flight to Belfast and went straight to an urban study of Enniskillen after lunch. They also undertook a sand dune study at Mullaghmore Beach and a river study in Lough Navar Forest.

They worked late every evening at Derrygonnelly Field Study Centre, presenting and analysing the data they had collected throughout the day but still managed to find the time for a 16th birthday breakfast celebration.



Michael Bell, Jonathan Lawrie, Chloe Wynne, Saoirse Houston and Lindsay Wright at Mullaghmore

**Geographers Investigate Glasgow**  
The Higher class went on their second fieldtrip of the session on Sunday 16th November when they carried out a walking tour of Glasgow to investigate urban change and its management.

They started at the original site of the city and observed the growth and development of the city through the centuries, paying particular attention to recent changes along the River Clyde.



Higher Geography students at Glasgow Green in front of the 'Homes for the Future' development

### Society Award

Alexandra Findlay, Hannah Edmundson (SIV) and Greer Smith (SI) were each awarded a prize in the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's annual John Bartholomew Essay Competition for their fieldwork reports on Paisley and Culzean Country Park. They were awarded prizes of an atlas and a visitors' map of Scotland at the Boyd Orr Building of Glasgow University on Wednesday 12th November.



Alexandra, Hannah and Greer

A number of pupils also received Certificates of Commendation for their work: Amy Bretherton (SI) for her Culzean report, Beth Fraser, Clare Eagle and Alexander Osborne (SIII) for their local area tourist brochures and Aran McKee (SIV) for his report on rural Ayrshire.

The purpose of the competition is to stimulate pupils to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills while arousing interest in the world around them.

There is always a large number of entries from schools within the former Strathclyde Region and "the quality of entries to the essay competition this year was again very high", said Mr Norris, the secretary of the RSGS.

## History

**The Battlefields Experience**  
During the October break a group of SIV pupils were taken on the experience of a lifetime - our annual battlefields trip.

Based at Kortrijk in Belgium, they visited the Pool of Peace near Ypres and the battlefields of the Somme. The huge monument of Thiepval, with the names of over 70,000 soldiers who went missing during the Battle of the Somme, the British cemetery of Tyne Cot and the German cemetery of Langemerck revealed to them the extent of the loss of life during the First World War.

The experience came to a close when they witnessed the moving Menin Gate ceremony which takes place each night in memory of the missing soldiers.



## Modern Studies

### Mock USA Election

Laura Watson, SII

On Monday the 3rd November, just one day before the real US election, SII held a mock election to compliment their Modern Studies unit - A Study of Inequalities in the USA.

John McCain and Barack Obama took to the stage, otherwise known as Madeleine Stow, Maxine Muirhead and Laura Watson for McCain and Rachael Ferrier, Duncan Stewart and Edward Stirrup for Obama. With Kim Grant and Euan Hunter chairing and time keeping the event, each person was assigned a topic. Having stated their policies on the topic each speaker talked about them for five minutes, with points of information springing up between the second and fourth minutes of the speeches.

Laura and Rachael spoke on each side's policies for the Economy; Madeleine and Duncan spoke on Foreign Affairs and Maxine and Edward spoke on John McCain's and Barack Obama's plans for the Environment. Everyone taking part was well prepared and coped really well under immense pressure.

After the speeches, the rest of SII questioned the candidates on their policies before ballot slips were given out and the year group voted on the candidates.

The next day the votes were counted and the result announced. The Democrat team for Obama won by 44 votes to 11 votes. Both the winning and losing teams received either an Obama or a McCain t-shirt, as did Jessica Lee and Niamh Moran who won the prize draw.

Everyone in the year group enjoyed the afternoon and many thanks to Mr Robertson for organising the event.



Duncan, Edward and Rachael, the Democrat Obama team



## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Transitus Kids are 'Safe Kids'

Transitus children participated in the Safe Kids event at Finlaystone, organised by Strathclyde Police Community Safety Department.

Despite torrential rain and extremely muddy conditions underfoot, the children enjoyed learning about safety in the home, on the road, near water and on the internet. They also learned how to keep safe from strangers.

After an interactive quiz and a healthy snack, the children were each given a bag full of goodies before returning to School.



### All About 'Myself'

Junior 1 children have been learning basic first aid and what to do in an emergency.

In small groups, the children talked about dialling 999 and speaking to the emergency services and how to put someone into the recovery position.

The children learned how easily germs are spread and how important it is to wash your hands.



### The Budongo Trail



As part of their topic on Africa, on Friday 10th October, Junior 6 visited Edinburgh Zoo. They learned about the life and habits of chimpanzees, particularly those of the Budongo Trail in Uganda which is a project supported by the zoo.

The zoo has a brand new £5 million building and enclosure for the chimps named after the trail.

The pupils took part in an excellent interactive game which helped them to discover how chimps live, eat and communicate and then visited the enclosure to observe the animals.

It was a most enjoyable and worthwhile day.



### African Assembly

As a finale to their African topic, Junior 6 children presented an African assembly, firstly to their parents and then to the rest of the School.

This production was based on facts that the children had learned about Africa in general and then described the lives of some children from Ghana, Kenya, Cameroon, Zanzibar, Swaziland and Niger.

African songs, dance and even playground games featured in this most enjoyable assembly.



### PACE Drama Workshop

On Tuesday 16th September Junior 6 were involved in a drama workshop led by PACE Theatre Company which explored the issue of Drugs Awareness.

The pupils initially watched a powerful play about young people from the age of ten to fifteen. It showed the power of peer pressure and the need for children to think for themselves about the consequences of their actions.

A workshop followed which explored these issues in greater detail and gave the pupils much to think about and discuss. It was a valuable and thought-provoking experience.

### River Clyde Entices J4

On Tuesday 23rd September Junior 4 visited the Clydebuilt Museum at Braehead.

The trip was related to their study of rivers and, in particular, the Clyde from source to sea, related industries, imports and exports and how Glasgow developed as a result of the Clyde.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed discovering more about the history of the River Clyde. They had great fun playing with the interactive models and were particularly taken with the working model of a ship's engine.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Under the Sea

In October, as part of their Under the Sea topic, Prep visited the Loch Lomond Sea Life Centre.

The children also had an Under the Sea party and dressed up as mermaids, pirates and sea creatures.

It was a very happy day for everyone.



## 'Loyal Wallace, Royal Bruce'

On the 8th of October Hopscotch Theatre Company came to the School to perform a play called 'Loyal Wallace, Royal Bruce' as Junior 4 had been studying these historical characters as part of their topic on Famous Scots.

It was a mixture of history and humour which went down very well with the children.



## Double the Fun for J3

Junior 3 have been learning about churches as part of RME. On 17th November the classes walked up to St Columba Church in Duchal Road to have a look around the church.

Mr Hogarth, one of the church elders, talked to the children about the history of the building and explained the uses of various items in the church. The pupils were very interested and asked lots of relevant questions.

Fortunately the weather was kind and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the crisp autumnal walk as well as the visit.



## Active Learning

Junior 2 have been learning about functional writing as part of the language curriculum. In order to write instructions for a recipe, the children made their own iced biscuits and discussed each step of the process.

It was a fun morning and the children were able to use this experience to successfully write their own recipe. Best of all, the children were able to take their biscuits home at the end of the day!



## J5 Visit Central Mosque

On Wednesday 5th November Junior 5 pupils visited Glasgow Central Mosque, as part of their RME topic on Islam.

After looking at the exterior features of the mosque, they were shown around by the Imam who explained all about the routines of prayer which Muslims follow five times a day.

The children were given the opportunity to ask questions and take in the peaceful surroundings of the main prayer hall.



## Walk in the Woods

The Prep class visited Finlaystone Estate on Thursday 20th November for a walk in the woods as part of their topic about Autumn.

The children also had lots of fun playing on the pirate ship, on the tram and in the fort. Some of the braver children thoroughly enjoyed the flying fox too.



## After School Care

After school care is provided by Home Time, based at Junior School, and operates Monday to Friday from 3-6pm.

A range of activities is offered including arts and crafts, board games, computer games, snooker, table tennis, outdoor play, drama, baking, knitting, sewing and library visits. Children can also complete homework and healthy snacks are available.



Baking cakes for mum

School children up to the age of sixteen can attend on a regular or ad hoc basis. For more information please contact Denise Ferrier on 07974 384964 or email FerriDeni@aol.com.



Healthy snack



Parachute games

## Hallowe'en Disco

The Parents' Association held a Hallowe'en Disco for J3-J5 pupils on 30th October. A great night was had by all and £454 was raised for school funds. This donation is greatly appreciated.

## Infants' Christmas Celebration

This year's Infants' Christmas Celebration, involving children from Prep to Junior 3, is an advent-themed concert called Countdown to Christmas. A report will be included in the next Columban.



# SPORT

## Hockey

### Hockey Tour

On Sunday 19th October 17 girls and 3 teachers travelled to Barcelona and, on arrival, were delighted with the warm weather and luxurious accommodation.



An early wake-up call signalled morning training at near-by pitches. The facilities were fantastic but coping with the heat was a struggle. After an afternoon of sightseeing in Barcelona the first match took place. The tempo was very fast and the skills of the Spanish players were superb. In a close match, the team was unfortunate to lose 2-0. However, the game was an important learning-curve for many girls who were not used to either water-based Astroturf pitches or more physical club-level players.



Tuesday morning saw the team enduring fitness with a difference, beach running. With burning calves and aching thighs, the team banded together and worked through the pain which, according to Mrs Green, would pay off in the end. It did! The evening match against Barca was a fantastic contest, everyone played extremely well and Rachel scored a great goal to guarantee victory.

The next day, they travelled to Junior FC sports club which boasted astonishing facilities including several multi-purpose pitches, tennis courts, a swimming pool and paddle-tennis courts. In the afternoon Mrs Green reigned supreme at paddle-tennis, getting perhaps a little too competitive in our 'fun' tournament.



The match against Junior FC saw us putting our code-words 'press' and 'around' into action and eventually we gained a 1-1 draw against tough opposition, with Stephanie scoring the vital goal. Unfortunately during the match Hannah was injured; however Hannah never spoils the fun and so her wheelchair antics at Portaventura have become legendary.

The final match of the tour was to be the hardest, with CD Terassa fielding two squads for the match. Our girls were the better team throughout the match but a wonderful goal from Terassa's coach ended the game 1-1.

To celebrate the tour the girls had a fantastic dinner on the final night. There were a number of speeches and the girls expressed their appreciation to Mrs Green, Mrs Urie and Mrs McCaffer for all their hard work and support in making it such a fabulous week. The tour was a great success both on and off the field. The standard of hockey was phenomenal and everyone helped to make the trip enjoyable and lots of fun.

### Trials

The following players have been selected for the South West District Squads and played in an inter-district tournament on 8th and 9th November in which the U-16s came third and the U-18s were sixth.

- U-16 - Hannah Simpson (SV)  
Catriona Dickson, Stephanie Kirkland,  
Kirsty Rarity, Katie Wood (SIV)  
Kirstin Bailey (SIII)
- U-18 - Rachel Cannon, Kirsty Wilson,  
Becky Marshall, Polly Brechin,  
Carolyn Lang (SVI)  
Megan Girdwood (SV)



## Rugby

### Rugby Tour

The Senior rugby squad of 32 boys toured France from 18-25th October. On arrival at Marseille Provence 2, the boys familiarised themselves with their surroundings and managed to squeeze in a game of touch rugby.



The following afternoon they played their first game against RC Ouest Provence and from the early exchanges it was apparent that the travel and numerous changes to the side were having an effect on the team. However, after dusting off a mediocre first-half effort, the team played some excellent rugby to win 17-5.



The second match was on Tuesday evening against Marseille Vitrolles. Having been told that this would be their toughest competition, the boys were extremely focused and being piped onto the pitch lifted spirits even more. The team seized control against a talented side, running in 3 tries in less than 10 minutes, to win 35-17.

Unfortunately Wednesday's game against SC Salonais had to be called off due to torrential rain; it was just like being back in Kilmacolm! Spirits were not dampened, however, and an impromptu quiz was arranged.

Finally the last game had arrived against EP Manosque. Despite having to make an extraordinary number of substitutions, the team stuck together and held out to win convincingly, 32-5.

The team was delighted with the tour results, having put 84 points past French opposition whilst only conceding 27...and, of course, the minor fact that they were undefeated.

### Scottish Schools' Cup

On the afternoon of 19th November St Columba's 1st XV took on Merchiston in the fourth round of the Scottish Schools' Cup. The team faced one of the best sides in the country and, indeed, the holders of the Cup. Until he became involved in the professional game, Frank Hadden, the present Scottish coach, was Merchiston's Director of Rugby.

After a hard-fought match on a rather muddy Birkmyre Park, the team was unfortunately beaten 3-10.

Scottish Schools' Cup



### Trials

Jamie Yacoubian (SV) has been selected for the Glasgow U-17 Rugby Squad. Jamie Binning (SV) and Stewart Gray (SVI) have been selected for the Glasgow U-18 Training Squad.

### Tournament Reaps Rewards

The Transitus Rugby tournament, held on 8th October at Birkmyre Park, was a great success.

Our team, captained by Ross McDonnell, drew 0-0 against St Aloysius' College, won 16-0 against Lomond and beat Hutchesons' Grammar 4-0.

They met The High School of Glasgow in the final and conceded only one try to win 11-3. The tournament began in 1996 and this is the sixth time that St Columba's has won.

- Final positions - 1st St Columba's
- 2nd The High School of Glasgow
- 3rd St Aloysius



# FORMER PUPILS

## House of Commons Lunch

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The event began with a drinks reception on the Terrace Bar overlooking the Thames where former pupils, staff and the Head Boy and Head Girl had an opportunity to catch up with old friends before lunch.

Eleanor welcomed the guests and recalled fond memories of her life at St Columba's and David Girdwood, Rector, spoke about the School's recent achievements and plans for the future.

After lunch Eleanor invited the guests to a tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords before being thanked for hosting the lunch.



Former pupil, Lindsay MacGregor (Wilson), attended the event and said "The former pupils' lunch at the House of Commons has been a great way for people from a wide range of year groups to meet together in a truly fantastic and unique setting. I would encourage more former pupils, living both in the London area and beyond, to attend next time as the setting and the shared history make it a special day."

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The fun begins with hockey at 9.30am at the Astroturf and rugby at 10.45am at Birkmyre Park. Do come along to cheer on the teams. Refreshments will be served in Junior School along with the presentation of awards.



## Reunions



### Class of 1978-79 Susan Forrest (Patrick)

"It will be thirty years since we left school next year...why don't we have a reunion?"

Before I knew it I was volunteered to try and track down old school friends. First point of contact was St Columba's FPs who were very helpful and sent a reasonably up-to-date address list. I put a small advert in the next Columban which got two responses and I then sent out as many letters as I could. Slowly replies came in and just about everybody knew at least one other contact, some as many as five or six.

All this organisation resulted in us holding a 30-year reunion on Saturday 4th October 2008 in Senior School. Thirty people turned up at 11am for coffee and home baking. This was followed by a tour round Senior School, led by three present sixth year pupils, and afterwards we sat down to a sumptuous lunch served in the main hall. I was worried... 'what if nobody comes, what if they don't enjoy it?'. Why did I worry - you can imagine 30 old girls all in the same room, talking at once and reminiscing over old memorabilia!



### Class of 1978

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I would like to thank Andrea Hargreaves (McGill) for her help with organisation within the School, Marjorie Mann (Munro) for her superb catering and Nichola McKay, Head of Marketing & Development, for her help during the year and on the day itself.



### Class of 1989

The 20-year reunion is still in the planning stage and Jen Marshall (Brown), who lives in Holland, would welcome any help from FPs in this country. If anyone is interested, then please get in contact - j.marshall@planet.nl.

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The committee desperately needs additional members to help take the Association forward. If you are interested, please contact a committee member or simply turn up on the evening - all support is greatly appreciated.

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Athletics

**Kilbarchan Cross Country**  
Kilbarchan Athletics Club held their School Cross Country Championships on Sunday 21st September and, for the first time ever, St Columba's won the Senior School trophy with Hutchesons' in second and Gryffe High School in third place. Our younger athletes also won the Primary School Trophy for the fifth year in a row.

- U-15 Girls - individual silver: Katie McAlpine (SIII)
- U-15 Boys - individual gold: Calum Macleod (SIV)
- U-13 Girls - individual gold: Kirsty Harper (SI)  
- individual bronze: Sophie Stuart-Menteth (SII)  
- team gold: Kirsty Harper, Sophie Stuart-Menteth, Catriona Love (SI)
- U-13 Boys - individual silver: Greg Cunning (SI)  
- team gold: Greg Cunning, Andrew Mitchell, Jack McAlpine (all SI)
- Transitus Girls - individual gold: Chloe Hardie  
- individual bronze: Deborah Staber  
- team gold: Chloe Hardie, Deborah Staber, Megan McLements
- Transitus Boys - team gold: Tom Thickpenny, Fraser McIntyre, Ross McDonnell, Patrick Skirving
- J5/6 Girls - individual bronze: Olivia Gemmell  
- team gold: Olivia Gemmell, Sarah Bradford, Bonnie Hammond
- J5/6 Boys - individual silver: Owen Bannatyne  
- team gold: Owen Bannatyne, Campbell Gibson, Lewis McRoberts

**Inverclyde Cross Country Championships**  
A number of pupils took part in the Inverclyde Schools' Cross Country Championships on 12th November at Parklea and produced the following results:

- Junior Girls - individual gold: Chloe Hardie  
- team gold: Chloe Hardie, Deborah Staber, Amy Mitchell
- SI Girls - individual silver: Kirsty Harper
- SI/II Girls - team silver: Kirsty Harper, Dakota Hlaing, Sophie Stuart-Menteth, Chloe Finnie
- SIII Girls - individual gold: Katie McAlpine
- SIV Girls - individual gold: Rebecca Cameron  
- individual silver: Alexandra Findlay  
- individual bronze: Emilie Anderson
- SIII/IV Girls - team gold: Katie McAlpine, Rebecca Cameron, Alexandra Findlay, Emilie Anderson
- SIV Boys - individual gold: Calum Macleod
- SV/VI Girls - team gold: Becky Marshall, Stephanie McCabe, Jordan McKenzie, Sophie Cahn
- SIV/V/VI Boys - individual silver: Andrew McAlpine  
- team gold: Andrew McAlpine, Ker Malcolm, Andrew Mann, Calum Macleod



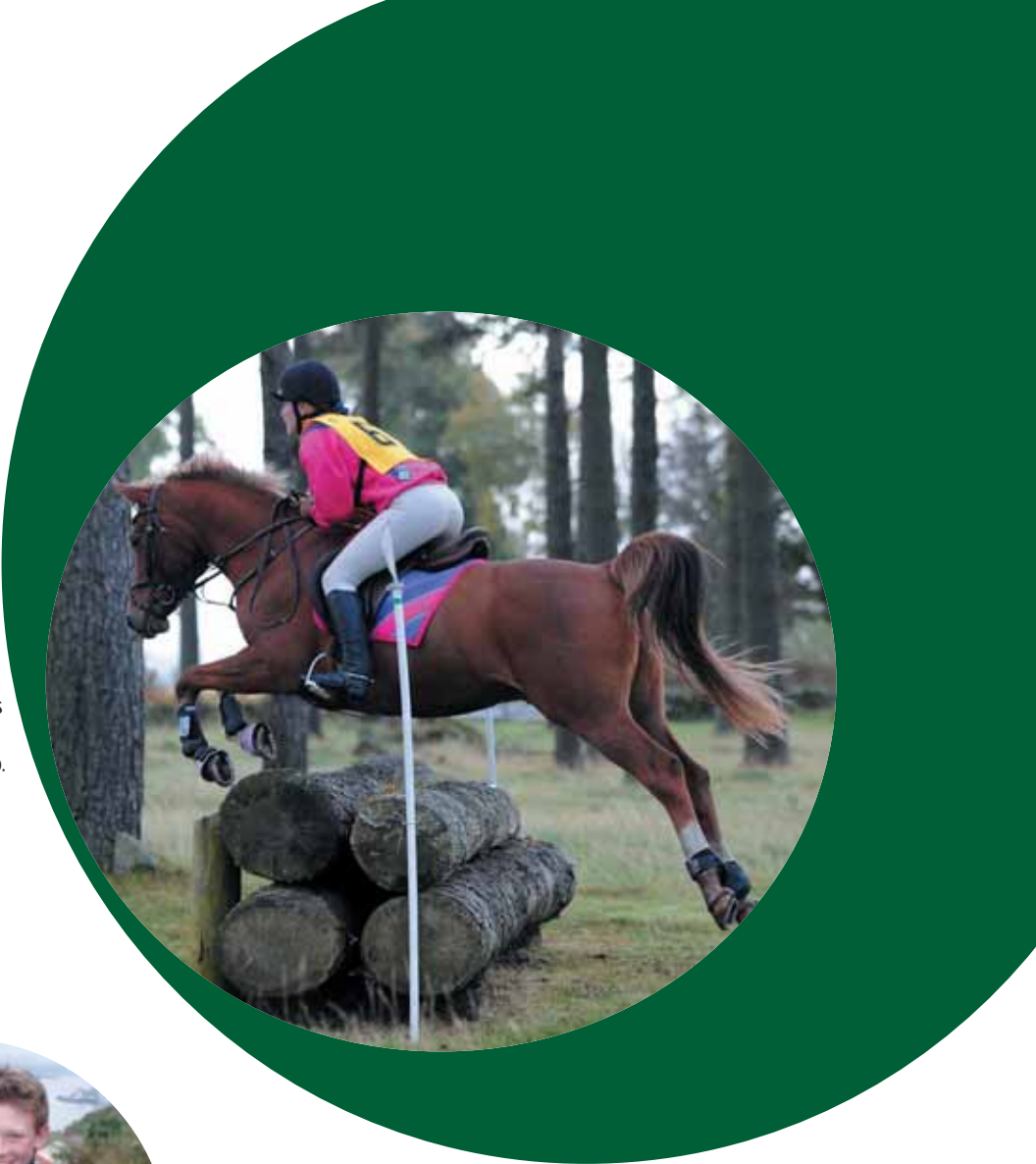
**Scottish Schools' Road Relay**  
Our team of Calum Macleod, Graeme Mann, Ian Gillies and Andrew McAlpine came tenth in this competition at Grangemouth in October.

Equestrian

**Cross Country Champ**  
Jessica Lee's equestrian career continues to flourish having recently won the Scottish Junior Cross Country Championships at the prestigious Gleneagles Course on her talented chestnut pony 'Flutey'.

The competition, run by The British Horse Society, was open to U-16 riders throughout the whole of Scotland. Jessica (SII) qualified for the final by winning the Strathkelvin Cross Country event at Ardgowan, Inverkip during August. Jessica showed incredible maturity in the final by riding a faultless round over a demanding and challenging course. Competition was stiff and although Jessica was the youngest competitor in the field, she produced an amazing round to come out on top.

Jessica also retained her title as Scottish Schools' U-12 Showjumping Champion at Carluke on 23rd November. Whilst on a winning streak she also entered the U-14 Junior Championships and was delighted to win that class too. The competition was open to all schools throughout the whole of Scotland.



Golf

**Scottish Golf Academy**  
Following a Talent Day at St Andrews, two of our pupils, David Slack (SIII) and Tom Binning (SIV), have been offered places in the Scottish Golf Academy and now have full-time coaches.

Only six boys were picked from 250, so both boys are to be congratulated.

**Under-14 Success**  
Robbie Morrison in SI has been named U-14 'Player of the Year' at Kilmacollm Golf Club. The Rector presented Robbie with his trophy at assembly on 24th November.



David Slack



Netball Club

Junior 6 and Transitus girls are thoroughly enjoying Netball Club run by Junior 2 Teacher, Miss Beggs, on Friday afternoons. The girls demonstrate superb team work and their skills are improving each week.

It is hoped that the team will play one or two friendly games against some other local schools in the near future.





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## Where are they now?

### 40s – 50s

#### Jean Durant (North), 1941

After leaving St Columba's in 1941 when my family was evacuated, I eventually went to Edinburgh University where I graduated MA LLB. I then worked as a Solicitor in Angus until I went to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) and got married in 1952. My husband was a District Commissioner and we spent 12 interesting and happy years in Africa, mostly on remote outstations.

We returned to Scotland in 1964, largely because of education as by then we had two sons.

My husband qualified as a Land Agent and was lucky enough to be appointed Factor to Lord Dalhousie. Meanwhile I again worked as a Solicitor.

When my husband retired we moved to Hampshire to see more of our family – both sons by now getting married and between them having 3 daughters and 2 sons. My husband died in 2006 and a year ago I moved to a small house. I now keep busy with my involvement in a local branch of the Alzheimers Society.

By a strange coincidence my elder son is married to a cousin of Drew Livingstone, which is how I came back into contact with St Columba's. I am constantly amazed and impressed by the development at the School. I wonder what Miss McMurtrie would have made of co-education!

### 60s – 70s

#### Elaine L Cookson (MacColl), 1966

Recently I contacted the Association to ask for my details to be forwarded to Vanessa Coulter (Holmes). I have already met up with Isabel Lorimar (Tolhurst) at a previous House of Commons lunch which was very enjoyable and I would be very pleased to hear from any other former pupils from the 1966-67 era.

I have lived in England for many years and have four children and one new grandson. I live in a beautiful part of Shropshire called the Welsh Marches being very close to the Welsh border, right on the banks of the River Teine, where we watch the Atlantic salmon migrating upstream every year. A most wonderful sight, especially when they attempt to jump the weir.

#### Jean de Mowbray Jeffrey (Weir), 1971

I always look forward to my copy of the Columban, especially the news of contemporaries. Having gone right through the school from 1960 – 1971 (with my sister, Maureen, who was 4 years ahead of me), it is fascinating to see the growth and expansion, not only of the original buildings and extensions, but in the opportunities for and achievements of the pupils - girls and boys now, my goodness!! Sad too, to read of the deaths of favourite teachers, but great to look back on a really happy childhood in a school that shaped the people we would become.

October '08, Issue 22 of the Columban has finally galvanised me into contributing. On page 17 of the Former Pupils section I was delighted to read about Elizabeth V McLelland, my old friend Vicky Payne. It is strange that she now lives in Canterbury, just 10 miles from where I trained and spent 18 years – I am sorry we missed each other! Also Vanessa Coulter (Holmes), sister of another good friend, Jane, whom I spotted in the photo, circa 1960, that was printed on the same page.

Here is a short résumé of what I have been up to. In 1971 I spent a year in Finland as an au pair while studying contemporary dance in Helsinki. From 1972-1975 I attended Nonnington College, Kent to study for a Diploma in Art and Science of Movement and Teacher Training.

I never taught, but stayed in Sandwich, Kent, firstly in the hotel and restaurant business, met and married my husband, Nick, and helped him run his estate agency, auctioneer and property development business which we sold to a bank in 1988. We moved to beautiful West Cork in Southern Ireland in 1990 with our 3 children, Angus, Charlotte and Katy, to run a fishing holiday business, project management business, dress agency, teach fitness and aerobics and finally, for the last 14 years, during which my husband had a heart attack and retired, working for a screen writer which involves the odd exciting trip to London, Dublin or Los Angeles.

Angus is now 30 and serves in the RAF. Over the last 10 years he has been in and out of Macedonia, Afghanistan and Iraq; nerve-racking for us but he loves it. Charlotte, 25, is living and working nearby, mad for golf and pretty successful competitively. Katy is 21 with the travel bug - she took a gap year after school to Australia and is now in New Zealand, after University and a Pitman Medical Secretarial Course. All are happy, hard working and well balanced - what more would we want!

I have stayed in touch with Karen McMaster (Rentoul) who still lives in Kilmacolm and runs a flower shop with her daughter.

### 80s – Present

#### Gill McLintock (Borland), 1980

I left school in 1980 having joined the school in kindergarten away back in 1966. I keep in touch with John Spinks who was my all-time favourite teacher (we met in a pub recently!). I did go to a reunion with my old class in 2000 and it was great to meet up with all my school mates (we had all gone through from the beginning). I often wonder what has happened to some of them and it would be great to hear from anyone.

I left school and gained a BSc in Chemistry, worked for a couple of years, then spent about 12 years as a full-time mum. I now teach Chemistry full time in Kilmarnock Academy, having entered the teaching profession seven years ago. I have four children, one a mum herself (makes me a granny!) and one at Napier University. Twin boys are still at home with me and a few animals.

The school is very different now as to how it was when I was there, but my school days have left a big impact on me and I'm very proud to be an old Columban!

#### Julie Cain (Brown), 1988

Since leaving St Columba's School in 1988, I lost contact with many of my class. I have, however, managed to meet a few of them: De-Hanne Caldwell and Pamela Robinson to name a couple. It's been great to read about others and their families in the Columban.

On leaving school, I worked for HM Customs and Excise before beginning a career in nursing. I currently work for the NHS as a Clinical Nurse Specialist for teenagers and young adults with cancer. There are only 2 such posts in Scotland, with mine having a regional remit. My role involves providing psychosocial support to young people with cancer and their families, as well as service development for 9 district general hospitals across the West of Scotland. It's a rewarding job that I enjoy immensely.

I have 3 daughters, twins Olivia and Erin (10) and Maryka (8). They currently attend a Christian School but will hopefully be transferring to St Columba's at the beginning of 2009/2010 session.

It would be lovely to hear from some of my old classmates again.

#### Alison Tough (Fairbairn), 1996

I have spent the past 6 years teaching Biology at various schools: Gryffe High, Dunblane High and most recently Kelvinside Academy. During that time I have trained to become a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group Leader (inspired by Mrs Marr!), which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I married Iain, who is a weapons engineer submariner in the Royal Navy, in July 2007. We've recently moved to the USA as Iain has been posted to Washington DC for 2 1/2 years.

My sister Fiona Carrick (Fairbairn) still lives in Milngavie with Glen and their adorable daughters Abigail (4) and Rebecca (2). She returned to work in August 2008 as a chartered surveyor and has set up her own company to carry out contract work. She continues to play hockey for Hillhead with Shona McConnell (Fraser). All the family still enjoy sailing at Loch Lomond Sailing Club.



#### Lindsay MacGregor (Wilson), 1998

I got married in a civil ceremony in the Provost's Room in Greenock Town Hall on 29th November 2008 to Alasdair MacGregor. We will then be having a religious ceremony on the island of Capri, Italy on May 23rd 2009 in the German Lutheran Church.

I have lived in London on and off for the past seven years and am working as an account manager for commercial property company, Cushman and Wakefield, in their corporate services department. I have travelled extensively and hope to do much more of this in the near future.

I recently met up with former pupils from other year groups at a lunch hosted by Eleanor Laing MP at the House of Commons on Saturday 15th November 2008. We were lucky enough to have drinks on the terrace overlooking the Thames without any rain to interrupt us. It was a real treat to be sitting amongst so many inspiring former pupils. I think it proves that St Columba's has always had a tradition of producing intelligent, determined and forward-thinking women.

In fact, I live a stone's throw from the Houses of Parliament in a converted public house and love the buzz and diversity of London. My husband works at the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the creative arts are definitely a huge part of our lives.

I keep in contact with Rosslyn Russell (1997), Pamela Graham (1998), Clare Brown (1998) and Julie Thirde (1998) who is now living in Bermuda.



Former Pupils' Newsletter

During the last year news of former pupils and former staff, which previously appeared in the annual Former Pupils' Newsletter, has been covered in the former pupils' pages of the Columban, specifically the 'Where Are They Now?' section.

At this time of year we would normally announce any births, deaths, marriages and graduations.

Births

Jane Kochanski (Adam), 1992, and her husband, Pierre, announce the birth of their twin boys, Charles Malcolm Andrew and Maxim Edmond Colum, on 24th December 2007 at the American Hospital Paris.

Catherine Dunn (Marshall), 1993, and her husband Andrew, announce the birth of Angus on 2nd June 2008, a brother for Mary aged 2.

In Memoriam

**Former Pupils**  
Jean Walker (Shannon), who left School in 1936, died on 22nd March 2008.

Susan Harrow, who left School in 1953, died in September 2007 after a long battle with cancer.

Violet Barr (Ross, Shearer), who left School in 1951, died on 17th July 2008. Her sister, Elizabeth, felt that Violet's whole life was a living example of our School hymn:

Saviour, our school bears Colum's sainted name,  
And we thereof would worthy be.  
Help us in him Thy will for us to see,  
And feel through him our hearts aflame.

Aflame with purity and truth and love,  
Burning to succour others need,  
And, wheresoe'r our path in life may lead,  
To seek the things that are above.

**Former Staff**  
Mrs Zena Morrison sadly died on 31st August 2008. She left St Columba's in 2006, having taught Mathematics for 28 years and been a very popular Head of Craigmarloch House for 14 years. A tribute to Zena has been printed in the School Magazine.

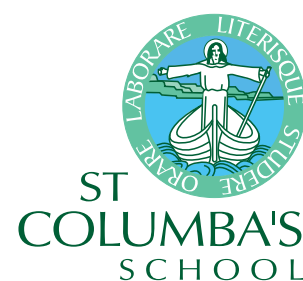
Mr Morris Banks, who taught Chemistry at St Columba's from 1973-1990, sadly died on 20th October 2008.

Graduations 2008

|                  |                                 |                          |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Khalid Ali       | MB BS Hons Medicine and Surgery | Newcastle University     |
| David Brankin    | MA Hons Economics               | University of Aberdeen   |
| Laura Eastlake   | MA                              | University of Glasgow    |
| Alastair Gray    | LLB Hons                        | University of Aberdeen   |
| Andrew Hutchison | MA                              | University of Glasgow    |
| Kirsty Miller    | LLB Hons                        | University of Aberdeen   |
| Lauren Moore     | MA Hons Geography               | University of St Andrews |
| Thomas Parker    | BA Hons Architectural Studies   | Newcastle University     |
| Jennifer Rhodes  | MB BS Hons Medicine and Surgery | Newcastle University     |
| Lorna Robertson  | BA                              | Strathclyde University   |
| Edward Scott     | MA Hons Arabic and Economics    | University of St Andrews |







**Senior School**

Duchal Road Kilmacolm PA13 4AU

T: 01505 872238

F: 01505 873995

E: [secretary@st-columbas.org](mailto:secretary@st-columbas.org)

**Junior School**

Knockbuckle Road Kilmacolm PA13 4EQ

T: 01505 872768

F: 01505 874642

E: [juniorsecretary@st-columbas.org](mailto:juniorsecretary@st-columbas.org)



Rector: David G Girdwood BSc MEd SQH

Head of Junior School: Davida L Cook DCE ITO DipAdPrSt DipEdMan

[www.st-columbas.org](http://www.st-columbas.org)

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